

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 4th May 1901.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 25th April has the following:—

Police arrangements at Langalbund on the occasion of the *astami* bathing festival.

There was a gathering of about 3 lakhs of people on the occasion of the *astami* bathing festival at Langalbund, in the Dacca district. Police and conservancy arrangements were not very satisfactory. The bathing took place on the 27th April, and the police and the medical authorities left the place the next day. There was a violent outbreak of cholera, and many people perished for want of medical treatment. Finding there was no police stationed at the place, gangs of *badmashes* found an opportunity to kidnap handsome women and girls. A widow of 25 had occasion to be out of doors at night and she has been missing since. Such cases of kidnapping occur every year and yet neither the Magistrate of Dacca nor the Subdivisional Officer of Narainganj takes any precautionary measures.

SANJIVANI,
April 25th, 1901.

2. A correspondent writes in the same paper that water scarcity is keenly felt in the village of Bahirgara within the jurisdiction of the Jangipara Krisnagar thana, in the Hooghly district. A small tank was being used by 20 or 22 families, but some one among the villagers has spoiled the water by steeping bamboos in it. The Sub-Inspector of Police was appealed to, but he took no steps. The Subdivisional Officer of Serampore too, who was next petitioned by the villagers, did nothing to help them.

SANJIVANI.

3. The same paper has the following:—

The Village Chaukidari Act, Act VI of 1871.

When with a view to thoroughly amend Act VI of 1870, a Bill was introduced in the Bengal Council in 1886, Mr. A. M. Bose, then a Member of the Council, vigorously opposed it, and at the same time a public petition against the Bill was sent to the then Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Rivers Thompson. The Bill was rejected, but it was afterwards passed in a modified form. It is notorious that if Government wish to pass any Bill, and if the public oppose it, such opposition almost invariably becomes unsuccessful. Even when some concessions are made to public opinion, their effect is neutralised by various executive circulars and orders.

SANJIVANI.

Under sections 35 and 36 of the Act, as it stands now, the power of appointing or dismissing a chaukidar is entirely vested in the hands of the panchayat. But in practice quite a different course is adopted. If the panchayat recommends a man to the police for chaukidarship, the latter begin to find out some disqualifications in respect of age or physical constitution, and send a report against the nominee to the Magistrate who, on the strength of this report, rejects the recommendation of the panchayat. The chaukidari clerk and the police are very intimate with each other. So he too leaves no stone unturned to baffle the appointment by the panchayat. He who can please the police, need not fear the panchayat.

Up to 1890 the final decision regarding the appointment and dismissal of a chaukidar rested with the Magistrate, but since then, that power has been transferred to the District Superintendent of Police, the District Magistrate only hearing appeals, if any are preferred. The Deputy Magistrate in charge of the subdivision has no hand in the matter. Thus by executive circulars, the intentions of the legislature are given effect to in a manner very different from that contemplated by it. That the chaukidar is under the panchayat is of no consequence at all, for he is absolutely in the hands of the police. Do the police in appointing a chaukidar strictly follow the rules relating to the stature and weight required of candidates for chaukidarships?

We also wish to know why the Deputy Magistrate in charge of a subdivision has been deprived of the power to appoint or dismiss a chaukidar.

4. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd April says that at

Gambling in Bankura.

Teligara, in the town of Bankura, gambling goes on every day, and that this has impoverished many. The police are not unaware of the practice, and yet it is not checked.

BANKURA DARPAN.
April 23rd, 1901.

RANGPUR
DIKPRAKASH,
April 25th, 1901.

5. The *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 25th April says that recently a theft, rather a dacoity, was committed in the house of a gentleman in the Korapara village, in the Nadia district. The thieves entered the house through a hole, which they had made for the purpose, severely belaboured a lady-in-mate and carried off two ornament boxes. The woman has been able to identify a man named Prasanna Pramanik, an inhabitant of the same village, as one of the thieves. He is under custody now. The case is still under investigation.

RANGALAY,
April 26th, 1901.

6. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 26th April has the following:—

Inefficiency of the police.

That the police are inefficient and oppressive is a notorious fact, and it would be unfortunate both for the rulers and the ruled if the public feeling of dissatisfaction with the police went on increasing in this way. How can it be possible for the people to regard the ruling power with respect if constant oppressions are committed on them with the help of the police? What steps have Government taken to put a stop to theft and dacoity which are every day increasing in the land? Life and property are not safe in the villages, even in the suburbs of Calcutta cases of theft and dacoity occur every night. In the far-off mufassal, dacoity has received no check. Highway robbery is still prevalent at Agra and Mathura, and in the Central Provinces one cannot sleep at ease. In the Mymensingh and Backergunge districts, it is impossible for young women to be out of doors. In addition to this, there are again party spirit, family quarrel, forgery and swindling. Consequently middle class people are unwilling to live in villages and come down to Calcutta if they can afford to do so. But though we blame the police, it is ourselves who give them the opportunity to commit oppressions. In former times all disputes were settled by *lathis*, but now we show our own weakness and cowardice by bringing false complaints before the police, and if the police commit any oppression, we rend the skies with our cowardly cry. Lately a respectable resident of Baidyabati and his son, a mere boy, were sent to *hajut* at Serampore by the police at the instance of his brother. These two brothers were not on good terms with each other. The police entered the house of one of the brothers and began to search it. At last finding in it a brass vessel belonging to the other brother, the police acted as stated above. A civil suit is now going on between the brothers. Now, who is to blame for this, the police or the brother who sought its help?

HITAVADI,
April 26th, 1901.

7. One Haripada Chakravarti writing from Navagram, post-office Syampur, district Howrah, in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th April, says that in the month

of Kartik, Bengali year 1304, Sukmay Das, son of the late Tarak Das, of Jaykrishnapur, thana Syampur, subdivision Ulubaria, district Howrah, went to Calcutta in quest of service. From Calcutta one Mahendra Nath Dan took him to Tejpur promising to secure him a good post there. On the 27th June 1898, Sukmay's brother, Krishna Chandra, received from one Mahendra Nath Dan a post-card written by one Sukumar Das. He wrote repeatedly in return but has received no reply. It is said that there is a pleader in Tejpur, named Babu Mahendra Nath Dan, and it is not known whether the post-card was received from him, and what may be the reason of changing the name Sukmay into Sukumar. At the time of going to Tejpur, Sukmay was only thirteen years of age. The Chief Commissioner of Assam should kindly make an enquiry into the case and cause a search to be made for Sukumar.

HITAVADI.

8. The same paper writes as follows:—

Mr. Geidt and the Noakhali Police.

In spite of its attempts to screen the police and humiliate Mr. Pennell, Government has failed to prevent a disclosure of the wrong doings of the Noakhali police. After Mr. Pennell's suspension, Mr. Geidt was sent to Noakhali as Sessions Judge. We do not know whether or not he caught contagion from Mr. Pennell; but he too within fifteen days of his arrival at Noakhali exposed innumerable wrong doings on the part of Mr. Reily, Osman Ali and other police officers of the district, and passed severe strictures against them. This has led the Government to hurriedly remove Mr. Geidt, too, from Noakhali, in order to maintain the prestige of the police.

9. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of theft and the inability of the police to trace the thieves in Kamarhati, near Agarpura, in the 24-Parganas district. On the 15th April last, there was a theft in the house of Doctor Upendra Nath Banerji.

HITAVADI,
April 20th, 1901.

10. Another correspondent of the same paper says that owing to differences between zamindars and raiyats, no chaukidars have been appointed in Kalapahar, a village in the Jamalpur thana of the Burdwan district, for about a year. The absence of chaukidars in the village caused the greatest inconvenience to enumerators on the occasion of the late census.

HITAVADI.

11. The *Faridpur-Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 28th April says that on the night of the 9th April last, Babu Govinda Chandra Niyogi, a mukhtar in Faridpur town, was mortally wounded by *badmashes* while going to his native village, which is only two miles distant from the town, and died in the local hospital after two days. The case is being investigated with great care and diligence by the local police. But the way in which the work of investigation is being conducted, is never likely to prove successful. For, who would endanger his life and property by bearing witness against the *badmashes*? It is hoped that the murderers will be traced and sufficient evidence will be collected if the case be placed in the hands of detective officers. The number of murder cases is increasing so rapidly in the Faridpur district that within the last two years or so, there have been no less than four such cases within the jurisdiction of the Ainpur thana alone. But in none of these have the murderers been traced, and the local police have submitted C forms in all of them. It is in this way that murderers are escaping punishment and are being daily emboldened in their career of crime and lawlessness. Some five or six years ago, the state of things was very much the same in the Faridpur district. Murder and dacoity became frequent within the jurisdiction of the Chikundi, Benekandi, Ainpur and other thanas, and the offenders in many cases could not be traced. At last detective officers were employed. Many dacoits and murderers were traced, tried and punished. Now that there is a recrudescence of crime, it behoves the authorities to depute competent detective officers to Faridpur without delay.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 28th, 1901.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

12. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 23rd April asks what could the High Court mean by ordering a retrial of Sadak Ali in the Noakhali murder case, when it had totally disbelieved the evidence of those who were the main witnesses in the case? It is for the first time that such an order has been passed by the Calcutta High Court. Considering the attitude which Justices Amir Ali and Pratt had all along taken up towards the police witnesses in the case, it should have been tried by Justices Stanley and Hill, instead of the former two Judges. When Justices Amir Ali and Pratt condemned the introduction of irrelevant matter in Mr. Pennell's judgment, they ought to have also passed some opinion on the letters of intimidation, &c., which Government had sent to Mr. Pennell. People are saying that two of the defendants in the case have been discharged simply to facilitate the release of Mr. Reily. However, Justice Amir Ali has not been able to prove Mr. Reily completely faultless, but has said that his guilt was not intentional. Yet it behoves Government to consider the expediency of placing such a fool, as Mr. Geidt has represented Mr. Reily to be, at the head of the police of a district. Mr. Pennell has shown, and Mr. Geidt agrees in the view, that the Noakhali police is rotten and corrupt in the extreme. This has, moreover, been proved beyond doubt by the hearty reception given to Mr. Pennell by the people of Noakhali.

CHARU MIHIR,
April 23rd, 1901.

13. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 24th April writes as follows:—
Although Mr. Pennell's judgment in the Noakhali murder case had convinced every one in this country that the decision arrived at by him was correct and could not be reversed, yet, in the opinion of the High Court, it was such as could not be

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
April 24th, 1901.

allowed to stand. There is nothing to be wondered at in this. But what is to be noted in this connection is that by its decision in this case the High Court has revived the interest of the Indians in Mr. Pennell's judgment, which was fast fading away from the public mind, and that the matter will be discussed by them afresh for some weeks to come. It is not our intention here to criticise the grounds on which the High Court has reversed Mr. Pennell's judgment. But of this we are certain that the great majority of well-educated Indians will find it hard to concur in the High Court's decision.

Of the three accused convicted by Mr. Pennell, two have been declared not guilty on the ground of the untrustworthiness of the witnesses, while a retrial has been ordered of the third, Sadak Ali. The witnesses were the same in the cases against all the three accused. How was it then that the High Court totally disbelieved their evidence as against two of the accused; and could not come to any decision in the case of the third? The High Court should have either ordered a retrial of all the accused, or discharged all of them. This is, perhaps, the first instance in which the Calcutta High Court in dealing with a murder case, on appeal, has ordered its retrial by a lower Court.

The public need not be astonished at the grounds on which the High Court has set aside Mr. Pennell's judgment, for every one anticipated the treatment which it was likely to receive at the hands of the highest tribunal in the land.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 24th, 1901.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISH,
April 24th, 1901.

14. The same paper says that Maulvi Abdul Rahim, the new Calcutta Presidency Magistrate, shows great reluctance to grant summons. This has alarmed the people of Calcutta.

15. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 24th April has the following:—

The Road-cess Office in
Murshidabad.

We have already referred to the burning of the records belonging to the Certificate Department of the local Collectorate, but we do not know what steps have been taken in the matter by the District Collector. It is not proper to keep the public in the dark in a matter in which they are interested. In this connection, it is necessary to say something about the Road-cess Office. Mr. Mehta has lately been entrusted with the charge of this office. Being a new man, he should carefully enquire into local matters and keep an eye on the revaluation work which has commenced. At one time, a road-cess notice requiring payment of Rs. 2-4 was put up before the Collector's Court by somebody, and was evidently destroyed by some interested person.

JYOTI,
April 25th, 1901.

16. Referring to the judgment of the High Court in the Noakhali murder case, the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 25th April writes as follows:—

The High Court's decision in the Noakhali murder case. We have no right to discuss the legal aspect of the High Court's decision in the Noakhali murder case. We shall only try to express the view which the public take of that decision. It was not Mr. Pennell but Mr. Ezechiel who first suspected Mr. Reily and his subordinates, and it was to his Court that the result of the enquiry into the case was communicated, and it was in his Court that his grounds of suspicion were confirmed. Moreover, in the Sessions Court two wise and intelligent assessors having experience of the country, found the accused persons as well as Mr. Reily and his subordinates guilty, after carefully hearing both sides. The learned Government pleader conclusively proved that Mr. Reily was guilty of perjury and forgery. Finally, Mr. Pennell delivered his judgment after taking all these circumstances into consideration. He severely censured the improper proceedings of the executive authorities, and although he has introduced irrelevant matters in his judgment, no attempt has yet been made to refute his main allegations. Then again in the currency note theft case at Noakhali, the learned Sessions Judge, Mr. Geidt too, like Mr. Pennell, found fault with the very same persons, viz., Osman Ali, Kailas, Mr. Reily and Mr. Cargill.

The public believe Mr. Pennell's allegations to be unassailable facts, and there is nothing to prevent them from arriving at that conclusion. By his fearless statement of the truth Mr. Pennell has shown a love of justice, the like of which is not generally seen. And for that reason people are worshipping

him as a god. The High Court in setting aside the judgment of Mr. Pennell has quite surprised the public. From Mr. Reily's evidence in the Sessions Court, every one was convinced that he was a liar. It was seen that from the beginning of the investigation of the case to the end of the trial in the Sessions Court, the police were attempting to frustrate the case by various means. But to the Judges of the High Court this did not appear improper.

It is impossible to deny that Mr. Reily grossly lied in his evidence regarding the roads referred to in the judgment. Yet the High Court says Mr. Reily was not guilty of perjury. Mr. Pennell made scathing remarks on high officials for interfering with the administration of justice, and for that reason the High Court declares him unfit for the post of a Judge, i.e., recommends his dismissal from service. People thought that Mr. Reily would surely be punished for perjury, forgery and an attempt to deceive the Court; and that the executive authorities would be censured for their unjust conduct. They also thought that measures would be taken to prevent the executive authorities in future from exceeding their legitimate bounds. But the Judges of the highest tribunal in the land have decided in a way quite contrary to public expectation. The High Court has let off those who appeared guilty in the eyes of the public, and condemned him who tried to be just. This has created a strange feeling in the public mind.

It may be asked why the people of Noakhali are mad after Mr. Pennell. Both in the case of Lal Miah and in the murder case, Mr. Pennell's judgment has been set aside. This at first sight may not appear to speak well for his judicial abilities. But the fact is not really so. The High Court may acquit an accused person on technical grounds, and we have nothing to say against it. We thank Mr. Pennell simply because he tried to put down oppression and to dispense stern justice in its stead. People are glad if justice is done to them without distinction of caste, colour or creed. Mr. Pennell may not be honoured in judicial circles in this world of ours, but his reception at Noakhali leads us to think that God himself from time to time sends such high minded souls to teach justice to men. Mr. Pennell's fame will be written indelibly in letters of gold in the pages of history. His glory and the people's appreciation of his merits will not be forgotten in the world to come.

17. The *Samay* of the 26th April writes as follows:—

The High Court on the duties of a District Judge.

Two wise Judges of the High Court, which is the strength of the weak, the refuge of the helpless, the protector of the oppressed and the afflicted and the sole up-holder of the cause of justice have openly declared from the bench:—"A Civilian Judge, so long as he eats the salt of Government, is not justified in protesting against any fault and shortcoming of Government which may come to his notice, and that if he does so, he renders himself liable to censure and punishment." The authorities in this country, no doubt, expect such servility from their subordinates, and it is certainly the secret wish of Government that every servant of its, however highly placed, should act in obedience to its hints. Although this is what Government secretly desires in its heart, it has never yet ventured to give open expression to that wish. It was to be expected that the High Court should enter a protest against such a conception of the duties of a judicial officer. But instead of doing this, a Civilian Judge of the High Court, who was himself once a District Judge and thus a subordinate of the executive authorities, declared in support of this view from the bench:—"Mr. Pennell has done a very wrong thing by condemning as he has done Government whose salt he eats." Alas for us that we have to hear this to day from a wise Judge of the High Court, whose Judges were not once afraid to record in the interests of truth and justice, strong remarks even against the highest executive authority in the land, the Viceroy, and which as the palladium of justice is the sole hope of the oppressed and degraded people of this country!

18. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th April writes as follows:—

Mr. Pennell's reception at Noakhali.

Some officials have been struck with wonder to see the reception which was lately accorded to Mr. Pennell at Noakhali. It is certainly a matter of wonder that the people should worship as a god the man who has been

SAMAY
April 26th, 1901.

HITAVADI,
April 26th, 1901.

reprimanded by the highest tribunal in the land, and who was expected to feel himself humiliated beyond measure by the frowns of the authorities. Will Mr. Justice Amir Ali take the trouble of paying a visit to Noakhali during the *Muharrum* holidays and witness with his own eyes what is taking place there?

He has only to come out of the High Court premises to know with what respect the public are treating the final decision of that Court, and what value they attach to its opinions. A visit to Noakhali would have enabled Mr. Justice Amir Ali to witness Mr. Pennell's reception in that place and to see everything clearly. It would also have enabled him to clearly understand the difference between the High Court of the days of Sir Barnes Peacock and the High Court of to-day. The high seat of honour, which Mr. Pennell has occupied in the hearts of the people by his magnanimity and self-sacrifice, is one which is scarcely attainable by any High Court Judges, nay, even by many Governors. The devotion which is being shewn to Mr. Pennell does not proceed from fear for a high-placed official, nor is it the ostentatious attachment which is born of self-interest. But it is the heart's sincere attachment for a suspended, insulted and despised official.

The writer then quotes from the letter of its correspondent, describing Mr. Pennell's reception at Noakhali, and adds:—

The reception was not merely an expression of the sympathy of the educated people or an outburst of the feeling of the bar, or a mere school-boy demonstration, but it was an expression of the deepest and sincerest sympathy of the whole Noakhali population, old and young, male and female. The High Court may disbelieve Hossain Ali and Torap, may praise Mr. Reily and Osman Ali, may alter the sentence passed on the accused. But it has no power to alter the public belief. No one can have any doubt that, though the introduction of irrelevant and unnecessary topics and documents into the record and judgment has laid Mr. Pennell open to blame, he has done this solely with the object of having the evils which have crept into the administration of justice removed.

What harm can the High Court do Mr. Pennell by heaping blame on him? The result of the treatment which it has accorded him is the demonstration in Noakhali. High officials refused to see Mr. Pennell, and the result is that hundreds of simple villagers come to do honour to him by drawing his carriage. The High Court Judges may make wry faces at seeing this, but are not the blessings which the Hindus and Musalmans of Noakhali are showering upon Mr. Pennell's head, a strong protest against the opinions of the High Court?

Mr. Pennell's reception was not the outburst of a momentary feeling. So long as the feeling of gratitude remains in this country, so long as this country respects impartiality and uprightness, so long will its people worship Mr. Pennell's image in the recesses of their hearts.

HITAVADI,
April 26th, 1901.

19. The same paper writes as follows in reference to the High Court's judgment in the Noakhali murder case:—

The High Court's judgment in the Noakhali case.

It was expected that the High Court would only examine the sentences passed on the accused, and no one ever thought that two High Court Judges would go out of their way to find out irrelevancy in Mr. Pennell's judgment or lose their temper in criticising it. Mr. Pennell is made of flesh and blood like other men. Nor has he come down from heaven to raise the fallen. He saw that an upright administration of justice in the Chapra case had put him to endless trouble. He saw that those who were censured for their conduct in the case were rewarded, whilst his reward was transfer to Noakhali.

How does flesh and blood feel under such circumstances? Does not one placed in such circumstances feel tempted to expose the manner in which the higher authorities perform their duties? Does not the man, who is treated as Mr. Pennell was, feel a desire to show and explain that temptation and private influence often obstruct the path of justice in this country, and that the judicial officer, who acts according to the wishes of the authorities, even if he commits injustice in doing this, may expect praise and promotion, whilst he who fearlessly administers justice and thereby offends his superiors must

suffer indignity and have his promotion stopped? If Mr. Pennell had not introduced these irrelevant topics in his judgment, would the agitation set on foot to-day have ever taken place? It was of little consequence to the public whether Sadak Ali was hanged or not. But they have been filled with wonder and curiosity by the wire-pulling and the holding out of threats and temptations which have marked the case, and the action of the Chief Justice in sending telegrams in connection with it.

It is because Mr. Pennell introduced irrelevant topics in his judgment that we are able to criticise these official doings. If Mr. Pennell had not disfigured his judgment by the introduction of irrelevant topics, the external appearance of the trial would, no doubt, have been smooth and faultless, but what would we have gained by these secret and arbitrary doings, this putrifying matter lying concealed beneath a smooth and showy surface? What Mr. Pennell did by putting irrelevant documents on the record was to tell us:—"This is the conduct of your principal officials! This is the greatness of your High Court! This is your just and impartial administration of justice!!" Would all these things have come to light, if Mr. Pennell had not laid himself open to the charge of irrelevancy?

We are not going to be biassed against Mr. Reily or Osman Ali on the strength of what Mr. Pennell said against them. But we must cry bravo to Mr. Justice Pratt for his strictures on Mr. Pennell. As a Judge, who was hearing an appeal from a sentence of Mr. Pennell's, he was within his right to see if there was any failure of justice in the trial, but was it his duty to see whether Mr. Pennell drew his pay from Government or not, and how he wasted the time of that Government in whose pay he was? Is Mr. Justice Pratt himself paid by Government for this work? Do the duties of the High Court Judges consist in expressing opinions as to whether other officials have an opportunity of making replies to the charges made against them by Mr. Pennell, and whether Mr. Pennell mispends Government's time or not? If it was gentlemanly on Mr. Pratt's part thus to spend his time, why should it be otherwise in Mr. Pennell's case?

Mr. Pratt's remark that it would be impossible to carry on the administration of justice if Judges and Magistrates took advantage of the judgments they write in order to discuss their personal grievances, has filled us with wonder. Would it be impossible to carry on the administration of justice, if a Judge said an irrelevant word or two in his judgment, but possible even when the Chief Justice of the High Court wired private requests to judicial officers in connection with cases under trial, and when the Lieutenant-Governor or his principal officers held out threats and temptations? One word more; does Government pay Mr. Pratt to think how the administration of justice is to be carried on or for administering justice?

20. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 27th April says that the judgment delivered by Justices Amir Ali and Pratt in the Noakhali murder case is unique in its character, as no other Judge of the Calcutta High Court has ever before delivered such a judgment. None of the decisions, arrived at by Justices Amir Ali and Pratt in cases which recently came before the High Court on appeal from Noakhali, and in which Mr. Pennell was concerned, have satisfied the public. In their judgment in the Noakhali murder case, they have censured Mr. Pennell for introducing irrelevant matter in his judgment in that case, but they have not been themselves able to avoid the same fault. The charges made by Mr. Pennell against certain police officers at Noakhali, are believed by the public to be entirely true. This is proved by the hearty reception which Mr. Pennell is getting everywhere. Mr. Geidt, who was appointed Sessions Judge of Noakhali, after the suspension of Mr. Pennell, also agrees with him in censuring Osman Ali and Mr. Reily. The Inspector-General of Police has suspended them, although the High Court holds them innocent.

21. The *Bangabandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 27th April says that the High Court's judgment in the Noakhali murder case will have the effect of again calling public attention to Mr. Pennell's judgment, which was fading away from the public mind. The writer does not wish to criticise the

NAVAYUG,
April 27th, 1901.

BANGABANDHU,
April 27th, 1901.

The High Court in the Noakhali murder case.

The High Court's decision in the Noakhali murder case.

decision of the High Court, but only says that the educated community will be unable to concur with it.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 28th, 1901.

22. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 28th April says that, as a rule, old and worn out pensioners are appointed Honorary Magistrates. It is a wonder that when

Honorary Magistrates. after thirty years' service a man is declared incapable by the Government, and retires with a pension, it is precisely at that time that he is made an Honorary Magistrate, and his incapacity is supposed to vanish. Government evidently makes a great saving of expenditure by securing such unpaid labour. Then again there is no rule fixing the period during which an Honorary Magistrate will hold his office. There is indeed a rule that no Honorary Magistrate shall serve in one place for more than two or three years, but it does not say when his service will come to an end. The Magistrate of the Faridpur district is requested to consider the cases of Babu Dina Nath Sen, Honorary Magistrate at Madaripur in the Faridpur district, and Maulvi Amiruddin and Babu Navin Krishna Basu, Honorary Magistrates in Faridpur town, who have been serving for a long time and possess local interests.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI.

23. The same paper says that Government has proposed to create one more Honorary Bench in Kotalipara in the Faridpur district. In Kotalipara there is always an internal dissension among the inhabitants, so that it is impossible to get just and impartial men there to serve on the Honorary Bench. None of the persons who have been recommended for the post, appear to be fully trustworthy and fit for the honour.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI.

24. The same paper says that there are many touts in Faridpur town. These men undertake to conduct law-suits on behalf of litigants and realise from them even 25 or 30 per cent. of their claims. An enquiry into their doings is prayed for.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI.

25. The same paper says that the 1st Munsif of Bhanga in the Faridpur district, employs his private servant, one Manmatha Sarkar, in the work of calling witnesses into his Court. Manmatha exacts one anna or two annas, and sometimes even four annas from witnesses, and, if they refuse to pay, report them as absent. The Munsif does not listen to any complaint against the man. This has had the effect of reducing the number of law-suits in his Court.

(d)—Education.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 24th, 1901.

26. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 24th April says that the students of the Dacca Medical School labour under various inconveniences. First, the number of teachers is small. Secondly,

experienced teachers are not long kept in one place, but are transferred too frequently. Thirdly, the want of proper arrangements for dissection greatly hinders the study of anatomy, a subject of vital importance to the medical student. Bar-soaps instead of carbolic soaps are used on dissecting tables. The authorities of the school should consider the danger to which the lives of the students are exposed by such short-sighted economy.

SANJIVANI,
April 25th, 1901

27. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 25th April has the following:—

The Viceroy's speech at the Aligarh College.

From the speech delivered by the Viceroy at the Aligarh College it would appear that an ideal College is one where moral, religious and intellectual instruction is imparted to the students, where sectarian narrow-mindedness finds no place, where the students are taught the importance of physical exercise, loyalty and the duties of a subject and citizen, and where politics is eschewed. But the Viceroy knows better than we do that English youths discuss politics during their University career. It was at College that Gladstone, Salisbury, Rosebery and others learnt the first principles of politics. Lord Curzon himself is said to have earned distinction in politics while yet a student. Why should that which is good in England be bad in India?

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

28. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 25th April says that boat arrangements

JYOTI,
April 25th, 1901.

Boat arrangements at a ferry ghat in Chittagong.

at the Anti Mahmud ferry ghat, which is within municipal limits, are highly unsatisfactory. The boats are very small, have no proper sitting accommodation therein, and are in danger of being capsized if the breeze becomes a little strong. Many accidents happened to the boats at Karnafuli on previous occasions during the rainy season. The public will feel safer if the Municipal authorities order the ghat lessee to keep two large boats during that season.

29. The same paper says that water-scarcity is keenly felt in the following places, viz., Motarbari, Dhalghata and

JYOTI.

Water-scarcity in certain villages in Chittagong.

Saraitola within the jurisdiction of the Mahesthali thana; Bara Ghona, Chhota Chhonua and Sheik-kheel within the jurisdiction of the Banskali thana; and Pokekhali, Goan-khali and Machuakhali within the jurisdiction of the Cox Bazar thana. Babu Kalipada, the khas tahsildar of Patia, wrote to the District Collector to reserve a tank situated at the centre of the village of Kainpura. Last year the District Collector gave necessary orders and also sanctioned a sum from the khas mahal fund for the purpose. But owing to the shortness of the above fund, the work had to be postponed. This year too the proposal is not being carried out. The illiterate people of the place do not know how to ask for help from the authorities. So the distress of the people arising from water-scarcity is not brought to their notice.

30. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 26th April says that under the new Corporation, in which the executive is all in all, the

SAMAY,
April 26th, 1901.

Conservancy and water-supply in the native quarter of Calcutta.

conservancy arrangements in the native quarter of the town are not properly looked after, so it is no wonder that plague, small-pox and cholera should be making havoc in that quarter. In addition to this, the want of a sufficient supply of filtered water is most keenly felt in these hot days. Filtered water can hardly be had before 7 A.M., and after 8 A.M. it is supplied in homœopathic doses.

31. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th April says that, while every

HITAVADI,
April 26th, 1901.

Insufficient supply of filtered water in Calcutta.

quarter of Calcutta, except the northern, gets a copious supply of filtered water from 6 to 10 in the morning, the northern quarter gets a full supply only for one hour, from 9 to 10, and it is not possible for people to collect the water necessary for a day's consumption within this short time. It is to the credit of the Municipality that the rate-payers of certain quarters of the town, though paying the full amount of their rates, should be subjected to such water-scarcity in the hottest season of the year?

32. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 27th April is sorry that the

BHARAT MITRA,
April 27th, 1901.

The dirty condition of a certain bustee in Calcutta.

Calcutta Municipality did not pay any attention to the application submitted by one Lala Ajodhya Proshad, complaining that a certain bustee in Singhi Bagan was full of dirt. The result of this inattentiveness on the part of the Municipality was that plague broke out in that bustee, and thence it spread to Hari Sarcar's Lane. There has been a large number of deaths from plague within a few days in the vicinity of Singhi Bagan. Another application has been submitted to the Health Officer of the Calcutta Municipality to the above purport by Lakshmi Chand Agarwalla. It is a matter of regret that the Municipal authorities should not think it worth their while to improve the sanitation of the town, even at a time when plague is raging all over it.

33. The *Bharat Ratna* [Patna] of the 25th April draws the attention of

BHARAT RATNA,
April 25th, 1901.

Insanitary condition of the Patna city.

the Municipal authorities to the filthy condition of the Patna city. The improvement of the sanitation of the city is quite impossible unless its narrow lanes are widened. Another complaint which requires the immediate attention of the Municipal authorities, is that almost all bathing ghats under the Patna Municipality are in a very dirty condition, and the people can hardly pass by them without stopping their noses. Stringent measures should be adopted to prevent nuisance being committed by the side of these bathing

ghats. The burning ghats of the Patna city being situated amidst the sand on the river side, people suffer great inconvenience in burning their dead and performing other funeral ceremonies.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

BIKAS,
April 23rd, 1901.

34. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 23rd April says that the steamer service from Barisal to Khulna, since it came under the management of the India General Steam Navigation Company, has become a source of considerable inconvenience to the passengers. There being no intermediate class, many respectable passengers are put to great inconvenience. Under the new management, no light or bedding is given to cabin-passengers. The services of a butler, for such as would dine in the steamer, have now been dispensed with, so that cabin-passengers and third class passengers are now placed almost on the same footing.

RANGPUR
DIPRAKASH,
April 25th, 1901.

35. The *Rangpur Diprakash* [Rangpur] of the 25th April says that passengers have to suffer great harassment at the Parbatipur station in the Northern Section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. The ticket-collectors are very oppressive. Recently one of them, named Adhar Babu, tried to harass a lady-passenger, but let her go after receiving a small gratification from her.

HITAVADI,
April 26th, 1901.

36. Babu Pramatha Nath Das writing from Utterpara in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th April says that on the 9th April last, an up-countryman purchased a railway ticket at the Bali station on the East Indian Railway for Bankipore and shewed it to him. Though it had been purchased for Rs. 4-5, there was no mention of the price on the ticket. The matter was brought to the notice of the Station-Master, who referred the correspondent to the booking clerk. The latter officer treated the correspondent most rudely on the matter being brought to his notice, and even threatened him with prosecution as one who cheated passengers of their money. The ticket bore the No. 1660.

The Editor asks the railway authorities to enquire how a blank ticket came to be issued.

HITAVADI.

37. A correspondent of the same paper complains that though the monthly income derived from the Kalipahari station on the East Indian Railway is from Rs 600 to Rs. 700, there is no platform at the station. The people of Kalipahari have drawn the attention of the authorities to the inconvenience for nine years, but without success. Apart from the question of income, is it not the duty of the railway authorities to look to the safety of the passengers?

An overbridge for crossing the railway line in front of the station has also become a great necessity, as in the absence of such a bridge people run the risk of being run over by passing trains.

BASUMATI,
April 27th, 1901.

38. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 27th April says that on the 20th April last, at 3 P.M., four drunken Mussalman *gundas* entered into a railway carriage at the Ballygunge station and began to beat, without any provocation, a gentleman, named Atul Krishna Haldar, who was seated in it. Atul Babu ran off to the guard of the train and sought his protection. But the guard said that he would hand them over to the police on arriving at the Baliaghata station. Then as Atul Babu, who was to go to Calcutta, returned to the carriage, the *gundas* attacked him with greater force and began to beat him so severely that, when the train arrived at the Baliaghata station, he was found weltering in blood. The *gundas* escaped after pushing off the ticket-collector. Why did not the guard hand them over to the police at the Ballygunge station, and why were they allowed to escape so easily at the Baliaghata station? The railway authorities are asked to enquire into the matter.

BASUMATI.

39. The same paper says that Gopinathpur, Jamtara, Nutangram, Habibpur, Amtara, Mohanpur and several other villages on the eastern bank of the Damodar river, in the Hooghly district, are situated

on higher land as compared with the level of other villages in their vicinity. For this reason, they have not reaped a single good harvest within the last seven or eight years. If matters are allowed to go on, as at present, famine in these places will become inevitable after a year or two. To avert that calamity, Government should excavate a canal from Jamalpur, in the Burdwan district, to Nutangram.

(h)—General.

40. Referring to the proposed separation of the Govindapur subdivision from the Manbhum district and its amalgamation with the Burdwan district, the *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 23rd April says that for the following reasons the proposal, if carried out, will prove injurious in every way:—

MANBHUM,
April 23rd, 1901.

(1) The condition of many estates within the Govindapur subdivision is such as to render the application to them of the provisions of the Encumberd Estates Act, which is in force in the Manbhum district, exceedingly desirable. But the Act not being in force in the Burdwan district will cease to apply to them, if they are transferred to it.

(2) The Bengal Tenancy Act, which is in force in the Burdwan district, is not in force in the Manbhum district. So, if the Govindapur subdivision be transferred to the Burdwan district, any attempt to regulate the legal relations that should subsist between the landlord and the tenant will present formidable difficulties.

(3) The journey from Govindapur to Burdwan town is so very expensive that it would make litigation ruinous, if not altogether impossible, to the inhabitants of that subdivision, who are, as a rule very poor.

(4) All the places in the Manbhum district are, as a rule, bound to one another by connections and associations based on trade and other interests. The proposed separation, if carried out, will destroy these connections and associations.

(5) The proposed separation will, if carried out, do violence to the feelings of the inhabitants of the Govindapur subdivision. The division of a country into several parts for administrative purposes often leads to far reaching moral consequences. The inhabitants of each of these parts of the country live almost isolated from those of other parts. All that they want for their sustenance and comfort are raised within the local area, which they regard as their own. They acquire habits, social, moral and intellectual, which become peculiarly their own. So, a social, moral, and intellectual friction is likely to result from the amalgamation of two parts of the country, which long remained separate from each other. This was exactly what happened when Navadwip was separated from the Nadia district, and the resulting inconvenience became so patent, that Government was, at last, obliged to annul the separation and restore Navadwip to the Nadia district.

(6) In these days of increasing scarcity, and when theft, dacoity, and pauperism are becoming more and more prevalent, it is not at all desirable to extend the local limits of the jurisdiction of a district in the way in which it is proposed to extend those of the Burdwan district.

(7) The removal of the law courts from the Govindapur subdivision to a distant place like Burdwan, will embolden the local *budmashes*.

41. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd April has the following:—

The proposed amalgamation of the Govindapur subdivision with the Burdwan district.

The coal merchants are for their own interest now asking Government to incorporate the Govindapur thana in the Burdwan district. The extensive coal mines of Jharia are under the jurisdiction of the Govindapur thana. They urge that if all the coal-producing places in Bengal are brought under the same jurisdiction, it would afford greater facility to trade. On the strength of this argument, the coal merchants pray for the establishment of a new district at Asansol and the consequent dismemberment of several existing districts.

It is the duty of Government not to look to commercial interests alone, but to look to the interests of its subjects also. The sudden abolition of the Bankura district, as proposed, will cause great inconvenience to the people and pecuniary loss to Government. The climate of this district is better than that

BANKURA
DARPAN,
April 23rd, 1901.

of all other districts in Bengal. Here there are a large jail, a school, many court buildings and a second class railway station. We propose that Asansol be made a subdivision instead of a separate district, and all the coal-producing places in the Bankura district be brought under that subdivision. It is not necessary to bring the Govindapur and Raghunathpur thanas of the Manbhum district under the proposed subdivision, but the places within the jurisdiction of the Gangajalghati thana may be included in that subdivision. The subdivision of Raniganj, in the Burdwan district, may be brought under the Asansol subdivision. Asansol is already under the Raniganj subdivision; it is only required to abolish the Small Court building at Raniganj and to build a new one at Asansol.

If Govindapur and Raghunathpur are separated from the Manbhum district, two other places, viz., Khatra and Raipur in the Bankura district, which were originally under the Manbhum district, may again be included in that district. If the Raniganj subdivision be separated from the Burdwan district, Indas and Katulpur may be added to it. If the proposed Asansol subdivision be placed under the Bankura district, then the separation of the above four places from the Bankura district will not affect it much.

The distance between Asansol and Bankura will be less than 65 miles, whereas that from Asansol to Burdwan is almost double. The distance from Jharia to Bankura is only 51 miles.

CHARU MIHIR,
April 23rd, 1901.

42. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 23rd April says that the answer given by Mr. Baker in the Bengal Legislative Council to the question about water-scarcity in the country might be excellent from a political point of view, but it showed a singular lack of that kind and generous disposition which a ruler should have. He should have pointed out to the District Boards and the District Magistrates their duties in the matter of the removal of water scarcity in the country—duties which they too frequently fail to discharge through sheer indifference. But the words of Mr. Baker will make them more careless still.

CHARU MIHIR.

43. The same paper says that Government has done a great injustice to the students of the Sibpur Civil Engineering College by passing a Resolution excluding them from the Upper Subordinate Service under the Public Works Department. This will discourage the study of engineering in the country, and be a cause of great discontent among the people. The students of the Apprentice Department will be taken into the service; but they will certainly not be found superior to the students of the Engineering Department in point of engineering skill!

PRATINIDHI,
April 24th, 1901.

44. Referring to the compilation of the census returns, which is still going on, the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 24th April says that (1) *Yogis* should not be classed with the *Jugis*, *Yogis* being a class of *Sanyasis*, and that (2) a distinct classification should be made of the Natas or professional minstrels, who still abound in the country.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
April 24th, 1901.

45. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 24th April says that the non-delivery post office in the Kalibari ward should be raised to the status of a delivery office, now that the town has increased in area. There should be another post office in the southern division of Barisal town.

RANGALAY,
April 26th, 1901.

46. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 26th April has the following:—
Exodus to the hills. Nothing can be wrong on the part of those who are powerful. The Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor and their *suite* are quite justified in going to the hills during summer. That we find fault with the practice, is simply because we are too poor to indulge in the luxury. Henceforth the Members of the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, too will be able to enjoy a trip to the hills by turn. Well and good, but why should the Judges of the High Court be denied this privilege? What if henceforward they deliver their judgments through the telephone and the Barristers argue before the empty bench at Calcutta through the same medium? As it is we, thirty crores of Indians, are being made to

dance like puppets, and the presence of their lordships is not at all necessary to keep us in control.

47. A correspondent of the *Hitaradi* [Calcutta] of the 26th April writes from Midnapore town that the Executive Engineer of the Cossye subdivision has, with the sanction of the Government, abolished the hospital which was long ago established in the village of Panskura, in the Midnapore district, to meet the wants of the servants of the local Public Works and Revenue Departments. He procured the sanction of the Government secretly, so that the public was not given the opportunity of petitioning against it. The abolition of the hospital has grieved every one in the locality. His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, is requested to reconsider the matter.

HITAVADI,
April 26th, 1901.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

48. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 19th April thanks Mr. Lea, Magistrate and Collector of the Chittagong district, for the services which he has done, and is still doing to the district of which he is in charge. He has established an experimental farm to encourage agriculture in the Chittagong district, and is trying to better the condition of cows and plough-cattle by feeding them with grass grown from seeds brought from Australia and other countries. He is also trying to introduce a better breed of cows and bullocks. Mr. Lea has established a Veterinary Hospital in Chittagong town, and has also arranged for the proper medical treatment of cattle in villages at the public cost. He is contemplating the establishment of an agricultural bank and a technical school in Chittagong. It was mainly through his exertions that the large Charitable Hospital in Cox's Bazar was established.

SANSODHINI,
April 19th, 1901.

Besides these, three projects are at present engrossing his attention: (1) the construction of a boarding-house for Musalman students; (2) the construction of a flight of stairs for the benefit of pilgrims to the Birupaksha hill; (3) the establishment of a Lady Hospital to commemorate the memory of Her late Majesty. But certain people have raised a hue and cry against the last two projects. But Mr. Lea should bear in mind that in India, as in every other country, there is a class of people who will always oppose innovations, whether good or bad.

49. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 23rd April has the following:—

Mr. Pennell.

Mr. Pennell's reception at Noakhali will be a memorable incident in the annals of British administration in India. Mr. Pennell is an instance of how a just and truthful man living in an atmosphere of administrative intricacy and impurity can maintain his dignity at the sacrifice of self-interest. He was warmly received at Noakhali, and to whatever part of India he may go, the natives will not fail to receive him with respect. It is a happy sign of the times that though they are fully aware of the attitude of both Government and the High Court to Mr. Pennell, the people of the country are openly paying their homage to one of their real friends.

CHARU MIHIR,
April 23rd, 1901.

We had a proof of Mr. Pennell's anxiety to be just when some *budmashes* were tried before him for committing outrages on women on the occasion of the *budhashtami* festival in Mymensingh. We have had proof of his fearless heart and love of truth in his judgment in the case of the Police Sub-Inspector Baroda Bhattacharya. In the Chapra case, Mr. Pennell has shown that distinction of colour is of no consideration with him. What indignities has he not suffered in trying to save helpless native subjects from the clutches of injustice and oppression.

We have no mind to make any comments on the Noakhali murder case. Mr. Pennell's judgment in that case and that of Mr. Geidt in the currency note theft case have brought to light the inefficiency and wickedness of the Noakhali police. As soon as Mr. Pennell reached Noakhali he found proofs of guilt in many parts of the local administrative machinery. Falsehood cannot bear the light of truth. We cast no aspersions on the character of Mr. Reily, but it is a fact that though head of the district police yet he placed undue confidence in his subordinates, Osman Ali and Kailas, and that he has been censured for this even by Mr. Geidt.

Mr. Pennell's reception at Noakhali is nothing but the homage which men pay to truth. In this sinful world, truthful persons have always suffered indignities. But this only serves to increase the lustre of their fame. Such persons are for ever enshrined in the hearts of men.

Man is not a God, and so cannot be perfect. Some people find fault with Mr. Pennell's judgment, and are of opinion that he did not write it in a cool and collected frame of mind. We, however, believe that if he had not written his judgment in the way he has done, he could not have furnished so clear a proof of his fearless love of truth. It is not our object to criticise his judgment, but this much we can say that if he had written it differently, it is doubtful whether he would have got such a reception from the people of Noakhali. They are charmed by the clear and brilliant exposition of the truth which marks his elaborate judgment.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 24th, 1901.

50. The *Sri Sri Vis'nu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 24th April says that on the 14th April last, nearly 500 garden-coolies suddenly attacked the Tejpur Bindukuri *hat* in Assam and plundered it. A rumour is afloat that they had been instigated by the European employes of the tea-gardens to commit the act, because the shop-keepers in the *hat* had refused to sell them articles at prices lower than those which ruled at the time. This rumour is most probably false. But it shows that the garden-coolies are so badly off in Assam as to embolden them to have recourse to plunder in order to save themselves from starvation.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

SANJIVANI,
April 25th, 1901.

51. The same paper contains a letter from Mr. Pennell's reception in Noakhali town, describing Mr. Pennell's recent reception in that town.

52. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 25th April contains a letter describing Mr. Pennell's reception at Noakhali.

SAMAY,
April 26th, 1901.

53. The *Samay* of the 26th April has the following:—

The present condition of Hindus. There exist now on the face of the earth one or two ancient peoples of the origin and first home, of which history can give no certain account, and in order to explain whose origin, it is obliged to have recourse to myths and legends. These peoples are extremely tenacious of their lives. Although they seem to be at their last gasp, yet will they not die. We Hindus are one of these peoples. And our Government has much the same trouble with us that the relatives of many an old dying Hindu who has been carried to the Ganges side to breathe his last there have with such moribund people. These people will linger on for weeks in a state between life and death to the great discomfort of the people attending on them.

The more highly elevated is a society in knowledge and morals, the greater is the vitality of the nation which lives in its midst. A nation can acquire vitality only in the bosom of a society whose laws are just and equitable. In order to ensure obedience to the social laws, each enlightened society elects the wisest man in it, under the name of King, to enforce those laws.

Now-a-days practices the most heinous in the eye of the Hindu *Sastras*, such as adultery, sale of sons and daughters, theft, false evidence and fraud, are rampant in Hindu society, and society does not condemn such practices. But if our Sovereign had also been the leader of our society, these sinful practices could not have prevailed in society, and several seasonable reforms rendered necessary by the new requirements of the times, such as sea voyage, &c., would have been introduced.

There can be no national unity in a country in which the social laws are at variance with the laws of the Sovereign. The people of such a country must gradually lose their vitality.

A Sovereign, who is an alien in race and religion, does not desire national vitality in the people subject to his rule. All that he cares for is prevention of rebellion and a settlement of civil and criminal disputes with an eye to his own selfish ends.

The *Sastras* of this country enjoin that mean people as well as prostitutes and others leading disreputable lives should, on pain of punishment by the

Sovereign, live at the extremities of towns and villages, and never in respectable quarters. Every free nation takes care to enforce such a law, in order to prevent the defilement of society by contact with the vicious. But this salutary law is not enforced in this country.

It is quite impossible for a people whose Sovereign is not one of themselves to achieve national progress. Such a people soon reaches a moribund state. As the limbs of a leper fall off one by one, while the patient lingers on, so does also the vast body of a nation afflicted with moral leprosy crumble away by degrees, and the Sovereign protects the fallen off putrid mass of flesh from dogs and jackals only if he has any need of such matter. The Hindu society is much in the same state. It is a shapeless trunk without legs and arms, with only the breath of life left in it and with the poisoned sores extending right to the region of the heart. We do not know how long it will continue to breathe. There is no cure for this disease but the mercy of Heaven.

54. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 27th April has the following:—

BANGAVASI,
April 27th, 1901.

Reforms contemplated by Lord Curzon.

It would appear from a perusal of the collection of Lord Curzon's speeches published by Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co., that he realises England's duty by India; that he sees that the Indians are not bond-slaves of the British Government, but that they should be treated like children. This is the main idea that underlies all his speeches, and is evident in all his actions. It is clear that he is trying to carry out this idea in practice. He is trying his best to preserve the remains of ancient Indian architecture. His resolution on the Rangoon rape case shows that he looks upon natives and Europeans with an equal eye. Of the twelve reforms mentioned by him in the Council the other day some one or other is progressing towards the stage of accomplishment. Half of his term of office is over, and it is not possible for him to accomplish all these reforms during the other half. But he will leave an imperishable name if he can accomplish two of those reforms, namely, police reform and the improvement of the condition of the native princes. If the police is reformed the Indian people will be refreshed by a soft zephyr of peace. If the condition of the native princes is improved, the life-blood of India will be enriched. It is not, perhaps, necessary to urge upon His Lordship the importance of these reforms, for he fully realises the importance of police reform and sees clearly what has led to the present degraded condition of the Native States. Lord Curzon, though a Christian, seems to have fully realised the soundness of the view of Manu that the customs and hereditary form of Government obtaining among a conquered people should be upheld, even though opposed to those of the conquerors, if they are only consistent with the duties of a Sovereign, and that the princes and ministers in such a country should be pleased by valuable presents.

Who does not know that Lord Curzon strongly desires that the native princes should live in native style? He has seen with his own eyes that the native princes become anglicised by their visits to Europe. He, therefore, issued a circular some time ago with a view to discourage that practice.

We have said that Lord Curzon wants to carry out his professions into practice. He feels the necessity of improving the condition of the native princes, and he is trying to improve their condition. If the condition of the native princes is improved, they will be sincere friends of the British Government, and the Indian Empire will become impregnable with their support.

55. The same paper, referring to the reception accorded to Mr. Pennell at Noakhali, remarks as follows:—

BANGAVASI.

Mr. Pennell's reception at Noakhali.

This sight at Noakhali was indeed a fine one. The scene had very pronounced comic features. But a tragic element also blended with it. Experienced men cannot but weep to see school-boys taking part in such affairs.

But why was there witnessed this fine scene at Noakhali? Who will answer this question?

56. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 27th April says that the services of

NAVATUG,
April 27th, 1901.

Prayer on behalf of a native journalist.

Babu Kshetra Mohan Sen Gupta, the oldest and ablest native journalist, who was so long on the staff of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] have been dispensed with by the proprietor of that paper. Quite recently Kshetra Babu

had the misfortune of losing his beloved son, Babu Prabodh Prakash Sen Gupta, M.A., who was an Assistant in the office of the Bengali Translator to the Government of Bengal. The old man has consequently fallen into great pecuniary difficulties. He has, from his youth, devoted himself entirely to the service of Bengali literature. His is a sad case, and it is one which it certainly behoves Government to take into favourable consideration.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 28th, 1901.

57. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 28th April says that a terrible disease has made its appearance in the village of Jhawgara within the jurisdiction of the Rugganj thana in the Dacca district. At first, there is a swelling of the throat, this is followed by fever and pain and the patient is unable to even swallow water. He then loses the power of speech and death occurs within 12 hours. This has created a panic among the inhabitants, many of whom propose to leave the village.

BHARAT PA NA,
April 29th, 1901.

58. The *Bharat Ratna* [Patna] of the 29th April says that it is a matter of satisfaction that Lord Curzon intends to check the frequent transfers of the *hakims* from place to place. There is no denying that such a step will tend to do good to the Government, but considering the magnitude of a task like this, it can be said that the five years, which is the tenure of the service of a Viceroy, are too little for its accomplishment. If His Excellency can avail himself of an extension of service for five years more, he can successfully accomplish this task.

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 20th, 1901

59. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 20th April states that the 28th of April, on which the *Latbundi* falls, being a Sunday, and the 29th and 30th April being Muharram holidays, it is desirable that the Collectors of Orissa should notify widely the exact date on which the revenues of different estates are payable into the Government treasury, for the land-owning classes in Orissa are mostly ignorant and illiterate, and are therefore likely to err.

UTKALDIPIKA.

60. Referring to the construction of a temple and the foundation of an endowment in connection therewith at Benares by the Raja of Athgarh in Orissa, the same paper observes that the Raja of Athgarh, as also other Rajas of Orissa, should join together to repair the Bhuvaneswar temple in that Province, that stands in urgent need of repairs, and that has long remained neglected by the prominent members of the Hindu community. In connection with the repairs of the same temple, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 17th April states that it is unable to understand the reason why Government is so particular about the admission of European Engineers into the precincts of that temple, when equally qualified Hindu Engineers can be employed without any difficulty whatever.

UTKALDIPIKA.

61. The same paper approves of the resolution of the Puri Empress Memorial Committee to send representative members to the Cuttack Committee and act in concert with that Committee. The writer advises all the memorial Committees of Orissa to act together, give up all petty differences of opinion and decide unanimously upon a suitable memorial, which the state of the funds may allow.

UTKALDIPIKA.

62. Referring to the willingness of Government to allow copies of the reports of the Settlement Officer, Collector and Director of Land Records, regarding the settlement of Balarampur, Ragdi and Chausatipara estates in Orissa to their owners, the same paper states that the concession should not be confined to these three proprietors only, but granted freely to all proprietors who may choose to take copies of the settlement reports of those officers regarding their estates with the object of fighting out their interests in the higher Courts of Justice.

63. The same paper states that there have been about 20 or 25 deaths, due to plague, in the Jajpur subdivision of the Cuttack district, but all the victims had imported the disease from Calcutta, where they were employed in some occupation or other. Fortunately the cases were isolated ones, and there has been no spread of the disease.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 20th, 1901.

64. The *Samvadvaika* [Balasore] of the 18th April states that the zamindars of those parts of the Balasore district, that were a prey to floods in the last rainy season, are now in great distress, not knowing how to meet the Government demands on their estates.

SAMVADVAIKA,
April 18th, 1901.

65. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 17th April does not approve of the appointments of the members of the Orissa School Text-Book Committee, as published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, and observes that many qualified men in Orissa, capable of offering a competent opinion on the merits of school books, have been passed over without good judgment.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 17th, 1901.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 4th May, 1901.

